

CULTURAL CROSSROADS

A PUBLICATION OF THE MAYOR'S MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ■ CITY OF LINCOLN, NEBRASKA ■ SUMMER 2005

"NO PLACE FOR HATE" RALLY JULY 16



Mayor Seng addressed the crowd at last year's rally in Pioneer Park.

The public is invited to the second annual "No Place for Hate" rally from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, July 16 at the Antelope Park bandshell. Nebraska Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy and Mayor Coleen J. Seng will speak at the event, which will feature activities for the whole family.

"Lincoln must take every opportunity to send the message that this city is a welcoming community," said Mayor Seng. "We take great pride in the growing diversity of our community, and we have much we can learn from each other. It is very important to let new residents know that we appreciate them and welcome them as friends, neighbors and co-workers."

For more information, call Susan Scott at the YWCA at 434-3494, ext. 111 or see the Web site, www.ywcalincoln.org

WELCOME!

COMMUNITY AWARDED MINORITY HEALTH GRANT

A collaborative effort of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) and the People's Health Center has been awarded about \$983,000 from the Nebraska Health and Human Services System. More than \$3 million was awarded to 16 agencies and organizations throughout the state to expand or enhance delivery of health services to racial and ethnic minority populations.

"This grant will help us improve services to the 30,000 minority residents of Lancaster County," said Steve Beal, LLCHD Assistant Health Director. "The funding is focused on reducing health disparities, especially in the prevention and treatment of hypertension and diabetes." Beal said the funds would be used to secure another physician at the People's Health Center and to enhance dental health services, prescription medication assistance and outreach to community centers.



Clyde Tyndall

Clyde Tyndall began working in May as Executive Director of the Indian Center. He has previously served as Chief of Tribal Operations for the Omaha Tribe and as the Assistant Tribal Business Manager for the Ponca Tribe in Nebraska. He also spent 11 years on the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs.

Jesse Payne became the new Executive Director of the Malone Center in June. He came to Lincoln from Florida, where he was a high school social studies teacher. He has previously served as Director of Development for the Friends of Children advocacy group and as President and CEO of the National Urban League Affiliates in San Francisco and Ft. Lauderdale. He also served as Program Director at Malone in the mid-1970s.



Jesse Payne

CELEBRATE!

Juneteenth

Several thousand people attended the 26th annual Juneteenth celebration June 18 at Trago Park. The celebration commemorates the day in 1865 when slaves in Galveston, Texas, learned of the Emancipation Proclamation, which President Lincoln had delivered more than two years earlier. More information on Juneteenth is available at www.juneteenth.com.



African American Students Honors Program

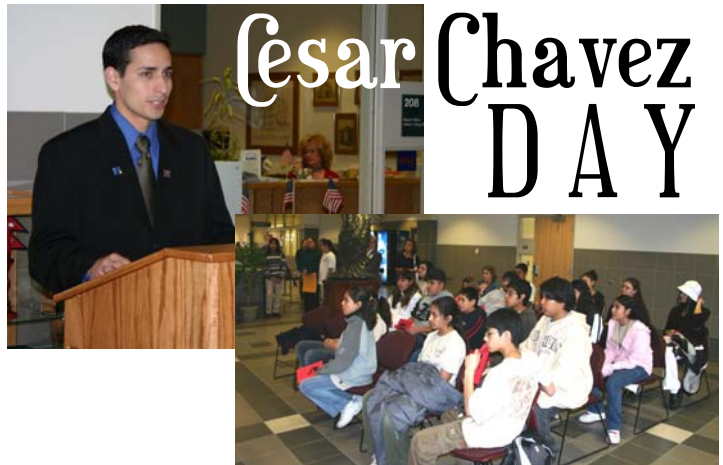


On May 18, 232 African American students from the Lincoln Public Schools were recognized for outstanding achievement in education. Of these, 127 were honored for a GPA of 3.0 and above and 22 for a GPA of 3.8 and above. These included students in 9th through 12th grades from Bryan, East, Lincoln High, North Star, Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest high schools. This event was sponsored by the NAACP - Lincoln branch headed by Leroy Stokes.

The annual NAACP scholarship winners also were named. They are Rashad McPherson, Chelsea Fikar, and Nhu T. Thi Ngo. Educator Service Awards were presented to Angela Smail of Culler Middle School, Carol Moravec of Southeast High School, and Shaunna Meyer of Lincoln High School.



The second annual Celebrate Lincoln Ethnic Festival drew more than 14,000 people to downtown Lincoln April 29 and 30. The event is sponsored by Updowntowners, Inc. Planning is under way for the 2006 festival, and more information is available at www.updowntowners.org or by calling 434-6902.



Raleigh Contreras, an AmeriCorp VISTA worker at the Hispanic Center spoke at the Cesar Chavez Day event, March 30 at the Mayor's Office. Information on the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation is available at chavezfdtn@igc.apc.org.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Meet Van Nguyen, Bonnie Coffey, Zaina Al-Batat, Helen Fagan, Jennifer Guterrez, and Kathie Uhrmacher—Members of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission

They are helping to make Lincoln the healthiest community in the nation by creating **My Medical Records Manager**, a multilingual tool to assist women in tracking their health history.

My Medical Records Manager, a six-page booklet, tracks health insurance information, emergency contacts, childhood illnesses, allergies, medical history, current medications, surgeries, immunizations, and doctor contacts. Information on the patient's rights and tips for navigating the healthcare system are also included. The booklets are available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese and on audio cassette in Arabic. **My Medical Records Manager** booklets and cassette tapes are available free of charge through financial support from Friends of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission.

Response to the project has been overwhelming. Requests for the booklets and cassette tapes have come from Lincoln and throughout the state and nation. The Commission has received requests to publish the booklets in Russian and Bosnian and currently is seeking financial resources to fulfill this need.

Former Mayor Helen Boosalis established the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission in 1976 to advise the Mayor, City Council, and Lancaster County Board of Commissioners on issues that affect women. The Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission is comprised of 15 community volunteer commissioners.

Thank you, members of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission, for making a difference. Lincoln can become the healthiest community in the nation, but it's up to all of us to make it happen!

If you would like more information about **My Medical Records Manager**, please contact Bonnie Coffey, Director of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission at (402) 441-8695.

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WYUKA RAISING FUNDS FOR MEMORIAL FOR FORMER SLAVE AND FAMILY

The Wyuka Historical Foundation is raising funds to provide a memorial on the grave of Ruth Cox Adams, a former slave and a friend of abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Ruth was born in 1818 in Maryland and died in 1900 in Lincoln. She and her daughter and son-in-law, Mathilda and William Van der Zee, are buried in Wyuka, and the Foundation hopes to raise enough money for memorials for all three. The drive has reached 75 percent of its goal of \$2,200.

As a young woman, Ruth was a slave of Congressman Fitzhugh Lee. She handled his household affairs and nursed his children. She was taught to read, write and sew by Lee's daughters. In 1839, she attended an abolitionist meeting held by Douglass. He mistook her for his sister, Harriet, who had been sold away years earlier. Even after realizing his mistake, he invited her to join his household in Lynn, Massachusetts, as his adopted sister.

She made her way to Lynn via the Underground Railroad and assumed the name Harriet Bailey (the sister's name). She managed the Douglass household while he was away and helped his illiterate wife read the letters he wrote from abroad.

In 1847, "Harriet" wrote her "brother" of her wishes to marry Perry Adams, and invited him to the service. Douglass provided her wedding dress. The couple moved to Springfield, Massachusetts, then Rochester, New York and Port-Aux-Prince, Haiti. They had three children.

After the Emancipation Proclamation, the Adams family moved to Providence, Rhode Island, where their daughter Matilda married William Van der Zee. When Perry died in 1868, Ruth went to live with her daughter's family. They moved to Lincoln in 1884 on the advice of a doctor.

Ruth's descendants have a memento that links her to Douglass. He had given Ruth a sewing box as a gift. In it, she kept a bit of ribbon from her wedding dress. Her family still has the sewing box, and a photo of it is intended to be made a part of her memorial.



DONATIONS:

Ruth Cox Adams Memorial
3600 "O" Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
474-3600

NEW CO-CHAIRS WILL LEAD CARD

The general membership of Citizens Against Racism and Discrimination (CARD) has unanimously elected Jean Krejci and Susan Scott as co-chairs of the organization. They replace Dan Williams, who resigned after 14 years as President.



Jean Krejci and Susan Scott

Krejci has worked at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department as the Community Health/Diversity Educator in the Healthy Homes Program since 1993. She has a

doctorate in adult education, and she has taught in middle school, high school and college. Krejci has been involved for more than 40 years in cultural diversity work and research. She is fluent in Spanish and worked six years in education and community organizations in Colombia. From 1980 to 1992, she worked as a consultant in multicultural and family programs in Nebraska. She has conducted more than 600 workshops or sessions with more than 14,000 participants.

Scott has been the Executive Director of the Lincoln YWCA since 2001 and previously operated her own management training consulting business. She has been a longtime member of CARD and has served on the planning committee for the past three years. Scott is a graduate of Creighton University and South Dakota State University. She has held leadership positions locally, regionally and nationally with the American Society for Training and Development. She has served on the boards of the Indian Center, Fresh Start, Friends of the Women's Commission and CenterPointe. Scott is leading the planning for the Nebraska "No Place for Hate" event coming up July 16 at Antelope Park. She received the YWCA's Tribute to Women award in 1989 and the Lincoln Lancaster Women's Commission's Alice Paul Award in 2001.

Krejci said, "...our Nation, State and City have set the ideals of equality and respect for all. In the examples of Dan Williams and other dedicated persons of CARD, we will look racism square in the face in order to eliminate it in ourselves and wherever we are – in churches, businesses, neighborhoods – in every institution -- government, education, health and financial."

Scott said, "We must attract more people who are not already members to become involved in CARD and come to our meetings and events."

Fourth Annual Fair Housing Conference Draws a Crowd

More than 300 people attended the fourth annual Fair Housing Conference April 13 and 14 in Lincoln. It was sponsored by the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights and other partnering agencies and organizations. This year marks the 37th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, and this year's conference theme was "Fostering Secure and Diverse Communities."

The first day, two four-hour continuing education credit sessions were offered for architects, developers, Realtors and appraisers on accessibility rules and fair housing. Presenters were Phil Zook from North Carolina and Terry Watson from Chicago. The conference continued the next day with mini-sessions on a variety of topics dealing with fair housing



Larry Williams presents Kristine Strand with the Fair Housing Award.

issues. Special guests included John Relman of Relman and Associates of Washington, D.C.; Shanna Smith, President of the National Fair Housing Alliance of Washington, D.C.; and Scott Moore of Baird-Holm Law Firm in Omaha.

The recipient of this year's Fair Housing Award was Kristine Strand, the Program Manager of CEDARS Transitional Living Program. This program places youth into apartments under supervision so that they complete their education, obtain employment and learn necessary life skills. She has worked with landlords and non-traditional tenants to place more than 200 young adults during her eight years at CEDARS.

If you think your rights have been violated within the Lincoln City limits, the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights (LCHR) is ready to investigate any problem of housing, employment and public accommodation discrimination. For more information, see the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov or call 441-7624. If you are hearing impaired, you may call 441-8398.

Congratulations To...

Winners of the annual ACLU awards were Nan Graf, Roger Baldwin Civil Libertarian Award; Lela Shanks, Defender of the Bill of Rights Award; Robert Bartle, Robert Spire Founders Award; and Dan Williams, special recognition.

The Lincoln Literacy Council and the Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest received KZUM's Cultural Awareness Awards in May.

Joyce Welsch, Affirmative Action Director for the City, County and LES, was named diversity chair for the board of the Lincoln Human Resources Management Association.

Thomas Christie and Chuck van Rossum were selected as the 2005 winners of the Chancellor's "Fulfilling the Dream" awards at University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The 2005 YWCA Mentors and Allies awards were presented to Steve Beal, Gary Hill and T.J. McDowell. The awards recognize men who have worked to empower women and minorities to achieve success.

Winners of the annual Martin Luther King Scholarships, presented at the annual Freedom Breakfast, were Brittney Hodges-Bolkovac of Lincoln High School and Nancy Hong of Lincoln East High School.

Marlon Polk was appointed judge of the Fourth Judicial District Court, overseeing much of the greater Omaha metropolitan area and Douglas County. He is believed to be the first black district court judge in Nebraska.

Harold Anderson, Frank Blythe, Charles Wright and the *Lincoln Journal Star* were honored for their service to the Native American community at the Chief Standing Bear Commemoration Celebration in May at the State Capitol.

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**Mayor Coleen J. Seng's Office
441-7511**

Designed by Citizen Information Center

The mission of the Mayor's Multicultural Advisory Committee is to identify and recommend policies and strategies that enhance and support the full and equal partnership of people of diverse racial, cultural, economic, gender and disabled communities in city government and Lincoln community affairs.

Editorial Policy

This is a publication of the Mayor's Multicultural Advisory Committee of the City of Lincoln. Material appearing in this publication shall be in accordance with the purpose, goals and official positions of the committee.

Submissions by community groups and individuals are welcome and will be considered for publication based on the following criteria: the article's compliance with the goals and official positions of the committee; the article's relevancy to the designated theme of that quarter's newsletter; and the length of the article. Articles may be accepted as written, edited or declined for publication.

Responsibility for final decisions lies with the committee chair and newsletter editors. Inquiries about this publication may be directed to the Chair of the Mayor's Multicultural Committee, Amir Azimi.



***If you need translation assistance for
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for referral information.***

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